



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 327**

*January Session, 2015*

Substitute House Bill No. 6972

*House of Representatives, March 31, 2015*

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE SAFETY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 29-251 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 There shall be within the Department of Administrative Services a  
4 Codes and Standards Committee whose duty it shall be to work with  
5 the State Building Inspector in the enforcement of this part and the  
6 State Fire Marshal in the enforcement of part II of this chapter as set  
7 forth herein. The committee shall be composed of [twenty-one] twenty-  
8 three members, residents of the state, appointed by the Commissioner  
9 of Administrative Services as follows: (1) Two shall be architects  
10 licensed in the state of Connecticut; (2) three shall be professional  
11 engineers licensed in the state of Connecticut, two of whom shall  
12 practice either structural, mechanical or electrical engineering but in no  
13 event shall both of such members represent the same specialty, and  
14 one of whom shall be a practicing fire protection engineer or

15 mechanical engineer with extensive experience in fire protection; (3)  
 16 two shall be builders or superintendents of construction, one of whom  
 17 shall have expertise in residential construction and one of whom shall  
 18 have expertise in nonresidential construction; (4) one shall be a public  
 19 health official; (5) two shall be building officials; (6) ~~[two]~~ four shall be  
 20 local fire marshals; (7) one shall be a Connecticut member of a national  
 21 building trades labor organization; (8) one shall have expertise in  
 22 matters relating to energy efficiency; (9) four shall be public members,  
 23 one of whom shall have expertise in matters relating to accessibility  
 24 and use of facilities by the physically disabled and who shall be  
 25 selected from a list of names submitted by the Office of Protection and  
 26 Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities; (10) one shall be a contractor  
 27 licensed to perform electrical work or a member of a state-wide  
 28 electrical trades labor organization; (11) one shall be a contractor  
 29 licensed to perform plumbing and piping work or a member of a state-  
 30 wide plumbing trades labor organization; and (12) one shall be a  
 31 contractor licensed to perform heating, piping and cooling work or a  
 32 member of a state-wide heating and cooling trades labor organization.  
 33 Each member, other than the public members, shall have had not less  
 34 than ten years' practical experience in such member's profession or  
 35 business. The committee shall adopt regulations in accordance with  
 36 the provisions of chapter 54 governing the procedure of the committee.  
 37 Members who fail to attend three consecutive meetings or fifty per  
 38 cent of all meetings during a calendar year shall be deemed to have  
 39 resigned. The committee may, within the limits of appropriations  
 40 provided therefor, employ such assistants as may be necessary to  
 41 conduct its business.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2015	29-251

**PS**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 16 \$</b>	<b>FY 17 \$</b>
Various Municipalities	Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal

**Explanation**

The bill adds two local fire marshals to the Codes and Standards Committee. All members of the committee serve without compensation or reimbursement for travel expenses, thus there is no state fiscal impact.

To the extent that municipalities reimburse local fire marshals' time and travel associated with state business, there may be a minimum cost to the two municipalities whose fire marshals are being added to the Codes and Standards Committee.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6972*****AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE SAFETY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill increases the membership of the state Codes and Standards Committee from 21 to 23 by increasing the number of fire marshals from two to four. The committee works with the state building inspector and state fire marshal to enforce the state building, fire safety, and fire prevention codes (CGS § 29-251).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

**BACKGROUND*****Codes and Standards Committee***

Table 1 shows the current composition of the Codes and Standards Committee.

**Table 1: Codes and Standards Committee Membership**

<b><i>Occupations/Professions Represented</i></b>	<b><i>Number of Members</i></b>
State-licensed architects	2
State-licensed professional engineers	3 (two must practice either structural, mechanical, or electrical engineering and one must practice fire protection or mechanical engineering with experience in fire protection)
Builder or construction superintendent	2 (one must have expertise in residential construction and one in nonresidential construction)
Public health official	1
Local building officials	2
Local fire marshals	2
Connecticut member of national building trades labor organization	1
Expert in energy efficiency	1
Public member	4 (one with expertise in building accessibility)

	and use of facilities by people with physical disabilities)
Licensed contractors or statewide trades labor organization members	3 (one each from the following trades: electrical work; plumbing and piping work; and heating, piping, and cooling work)

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 2 (03/17/2015)